

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0003] with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] The vertebral column (spine) is a biomechanical structure composed primarily of ligaments, muscles, vertebrae and intervertebrae discs. The biomechanical functions of the spine include (1) support of the body (trunk and appendages), which involves the transfer of the weight and the bending moments of the head, trunk and arms to the pelvis and legs, (2) complex physiologic motion between these body parts, and (3) protection of the spinal ~~cere~~ cord and nerve roots.

Please replace paragraph [0052] with the following amended paragraph:

[0052] As shown in Figures 2 and 4, the second segments 36a and 36b are linked to the jackscrew 20 through a pivot collar assembly 37. As a result, the second segments 36a and 36b are able to rotate ~~which~~ with respect to each other thereby enabling the remote ends of the second segments to move toward and away from each other as described hereinafter.

Please replace paragraph [0086] with the following amended paragraph:

[0086] As shown in Figure 7 ~~5~~, the motion segment unit of a spine shown generally by the numeral 44 may be provided with a pin, pedicle screw or the like shown

generally by the numeral 46 which is preinserted into the motion segment unit and has a head portion 48 which is adapted to be engaged by the dual leg assembly attached to the second segment 36 of the distractor arm assembly 8. The dual leg assembly and particularly the lower portion thereof is fitted in reversible locking engagement to the head portion 48 of the pin 46 so that the head portion 48 of the pin 46 ~~so that the head portion 48~~ may be inserted into the lower portion (e.g. 66 as shown in Figure 8) of the motion segment unit engaging assembly 61 to provide reversible locking engagement with the second segment 36 of the distractor arm assembly 8.